

Frequently Asked Questions About Michigan Merit Examination Score Reports

June 2009

1. **What is the Michigan Merit Examination?** - The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the state high school assessment administered to grade 11 and eligible grade 12 students. It replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) high school assessment in Spring 2007. The MME is now administered each year during the month of March. The MME is comprised of the ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam, portions of the WorkKeys® work skills assessment, and several Michigan components developed to assess Michigan high school content standards. The MME assesses students in English Language Arts (reading and writing), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The assessment items are aligned to Michigan high school content standards.
2. **How does a student qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship?** - To become eligible for the Michigan Promise scholarship, students must take the entire MME and receive valid MME scores in Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. To qualify for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship, students must achieve proficiency (performance level 1 or 2) in Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science, AND Social Studies. For details about the Michigan Promise scholarship, please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury toll-free at (800) 447-2687.
3. **Can a student retake the MME to become eligible for the Michigan Promise Scholarship or installment payments of the scholarship?** - Generally, no. The revised *State School Aid Act* (Public Act 268 of 2008) stipulates that schools may administer the complete MME once and only once to each student. A student who has taken the complete MME and has achieved a performance level of either 1, 2, 3, or 4 in each MME subject area, including reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies is considered to have been administered the complete MME. However, a current student who tested in an earlier year and who has a reported performance level of "N/A", or a blank performance level, in any MME subject area is considered not to have taken the complete MME, is not eligible for the Michigan Promise Scholarship and must test again to become eligible for the Michigan Promise Scholarship.
4. **What is the "ACT option" to qualify for the installment payments of the Michigan Promise Scholarship?** - Michigan law (Public Act 349 of 2008) now gives students the option of becoming eligible for installment payments by taking the national ACT test. Here's how it works...
 - a. The student must FIRST take the complete MME, and obtain MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4) in ALL of the MME subjects of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. If the student's MME scores are insufficient for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship, the student could then choose to take the national ACT.
 - b. If the student were to take the national ACT after taking the complete MME and Composite Score of 21 attain or higher, the student would

become eligible for installment payments, provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements established by the Michigan Department of Treasury. For details about the Michigan Promise scholarship, please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury toll-free at (800) 447-2687.

5. **If a student uses the “ACT option” as described in the previous question, who pays the registration fee for the student to take the national ACT?** – The student and/or a parent guardian are responsible for registering for the national ACT and paying the fee. However, if the student qualifies for free/reduced lunch under the provisions of the *Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act*, the student may apply through his school's Guidance Counselor for an ACT waiver of the registration fee.
6. **Are schools required to administer the MME?** - Yes. Federal and State laws require public schools to assess certain grade levels. The MME assesses juniors and eligible seniors while the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assesses grades 3-9. These assessments provide a way to measure all Michigan students in the same subject, at the same time. The test provides valuable information to parents on their student's academic performance.
7. **My son took the ACT separate from the MME. Can he use that ACT score as part of his MME score?** - No. The ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam taken separate from the MME is not the same test as the ACT Plus Writing® offered as part of the MME. The scores cannot be swapped. It is the actual items from the ACT test, not the ACT scores, that contribute to the MME subject scores. The MME must be taken in its entirety, which includes the ACT Plus Writing®.
8. **Is the ACT taken as a part of the MME accepted by colleges as a valid ACT entrance exam?** - Yes, if the test was taken under college reportable conditions, meaning Standard Testing or with ACT-Approved Accommodations. If you are uncertain if the student's test was taken under these conditions, please contact your high school's Guidance Office.
9. **What is WorkKeys?** - WorkKeys® is a national assessment that measures work readiness skills in the areas of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. WorkKeys test results compare the skill levels required by jobs in the WorkKeys job profiles database to those of individuals who have taken the WorkKeys assessments.
10. In the Spring of 2009, Day 2 of the MME included three WorkKeys tests: Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. Depending on the scores earned, students who took the English (non-translated) versions of WorkKeys tests may have qualified for the National Career Readiness Certificate. WorkKeys scores were reported direct by ACT through the student's high school. More information on WorkKeys® and the National Career Readiness Certificate can be found at www.act.org/workkeys.
11. **Can the state average scores from the ACT portion of the MME be compared to the average scores from annual ACT High School Profile of each year's graduating class?** – No. The state average scores for the

ACT portion of the MME are the averages taken from only the Grade 11 college reportable ACT scores in the current year administration of the MME. The average scores shown in the annual ACT High School Profile are the averages of the most recent college reportable ACT scores for high school seniors who took the test as sophomores, juniors, or seniors.

12. **How do MME scores impact Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?** - The process for determining the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* for a school or district is complex and involves data from many sources. Results from the MME are simply one part of the total calculation. AYP status is reported separately by the State when all elements of the process have been assembled. For more information about AYP, please go to www.michigan.gov/ayp.
13. **Where can I find more information regarding MME results on the web?** - Go to www.michigan.gov/mme, then select "Assessment Results." You will find information on state, district and school results, including a Guide to Reports, a downloadable school and district summary file, and other information to aid your understanding of the MME results.

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